



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 22, 2000

TO: Internal File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist and Project Lead 

RE: Modifications to the Link Canyon Substation Plan, Canyon Fuel Company LLC., SUFCO Mine, ACT/041/002-AM00B, Internal File

SUMMARY:

On May 17, 2000, the Division received a proposal from Canyon Fuel Company to clarify the monitoring and maintenance requirements for the Link Canyon substation.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-333

Analysis:

Protection and Enhancement Plan

Link Canyon contains high priority big game winter range and has historically had at least two raptor nests. Forest Service and other regulations and guidelines require that these areas be protected during certain times of the year. However, the road through Link Canyon is a public road, so there is potentially some degree of disturbance year-round.

According to the application, the Link Canyon substation will require only emergency maintenance and monthly electrical inspections. This will require access using a pickup, all terrain vehicle, or snowmobile, and this would be similar to public use of the canyon.

TECHNICAL MEMO

From December 1 through August 15, any major maintenance requiring heavy construction equipment would necessitate monitoring for raptors or big game to determine if this level of additional disturbance would be acceptable, and this would require a clearance from the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Forest Service. The Division should be notified, and if there is any concern about raptors, the applicant should inform the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Findings:

Information in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. In the event that major maintenance requiring heavy equipment is needed at the Link Canyon substation, the applicant should notify the Division in addition to the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Forest Service. If there is any concern about raptors, the Fish and Wildlife Service should also be informed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The applicant has met the requirements of the reviewed section of the regulations.

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